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people as quickly as possible. The cadres force the people to supply them with statistical data so quickly that a great deal of the compiled information is inaccurate. In some villages the inhabitants are receiving one or two questionnaires per day. Many cadres are failing to consider the cultural level in the rural areas and are requiring completely untrained, uneducated men to carry out highly technical work such as surveying the water sources, drawing up plans for water conservation work, etc. Some of the data which the farmers are asked to supply in the questionnaires are of an extremely ridiculous nature. For example, in answering questions concerning mules and bees, the people are required to give the number of male and female of each. For mosquitoes, flies, and lice, they must give the weight in catties as well as the number of insects caught.

2. Some leading organs and operational units are leaning toward bureaucratism. Too many organs operate without the approval of higher authority. Many operational organs do not have strict enough inspections. The forms which are sent out by industrial organizations, insurance companies, etc., to the rural inhabitants often overlap and are beyond their jurisdiction. To remedy this confused situation, future questionnaire forms must conform to the rules set forth by the national statistical organization concerned. Only a certain number of questionnaires should be made up; these questionnaires should be examined and approved by the proper authorities, and only then should they be distributed to the people.

If the present negative attitude of the cadres toward this statistical survey work continues, the very purpose of the statistical work is doomed to failure.

NORTH CHINA BUREAU SUGGESTS RURAL SURVEY REFORMS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 27 Jun 53

The North China Bureau of the Central Committee, CCP, called a conference in Peiping of all those concerned with rural statistical survey work to study and discuss the serious state of confusion in this work in North China, especially in Yu-tzu, a special district in Shansi Province, and in Ting Hsien in Hopeh Province.

The reports submitted to this conference pointed out the following defects:

- (1) In the survey work both the questionnaires and the reports are too long and too detailed. As examples: The Shansi Provincial Committee of Finance and Economics put out a report entitled "Statistics on Rural Production, Total Value, and Amount of Labor" that was 74 pages long and contained 6,307 items. In Yu-tzu the cooperatives were to send out more than 180 forms in the next 3 months.
- (2) The contents of the questionnaires are too complex. The greatest number of questions are concerned with rural production. In Shansi a poll was taken to find out what the people thought about the marriage laws.
- (3) The requirements of statistical survey work are too great, it is divorced too far from actuality, and the time limits set for obtaining the information are too short. Monthly, weekly, and 10-day reports are required from the farmers as well as from urban businessmen. It is impossible for farmers to make these short-term reports and thus they are forced to invent figures. In Hsi-yang Hsien, in Shansi, the farmers were required to draft a "5-year production plan" which called for strict adherence to a monthly schedule.

An analysis of the above deficiencies reveals that they resulted from the following: (1) The leading cadres failed to understand the statistical requirements of small-scale agricultural economy as set forth in the Central People's Government directive on the matter. (2) There was an overlap in

- 2 -

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the work assigned which indicates lack of organization and a serious waste of manpower and resources. (3) Cadres were exceeding their authority. (4) There was too much bureaucratism and red tape. (5) There was too much stress on formalism.

The conference recognized that the above conditions must be corrected to build up a better rural statistical survey system. The conference resolved: (1) to simplify the questionnaire forms by getting rid of unnecessary items; (2) to strengthen party control of the statistical work at all levels; and (3) to institute the system of having local cadres hold meetings with local farmers to familiarize themselves with local conditions and to explain the purpose of the survey to the farmers.

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- 3 -

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